

Sponsoring Organization:

THE FORT SMITH JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....JOE BISHOP  
Staging.....CHARLES DIXON, PAYNE MORROW, JAMES PATTEE  
Costumes—  
MRS. PAYNE MORROW, MRS. JOHN AYERS, MISS KATHRYN  
GAMBLE, MRS. CHARLES DIXON  
Lights and Sound.....JAMES PATTEE, JOE BISHOP  
Script Typist.....KATHRYN GAMBLE  
Program.....MRS. BURLEY C. JOHNSTON, JR.  
Tickets.....THE JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Mike Maloney, Chairman

Little Theatre wishes to thank the EXCHANGE CLUB and the KIWANIS CLUB, who obligingly moved from their accustomed place for luncheon, so that we might give uninterrupted performances. We also thank Eads Bros. Furniture Co. for their many courtesies.

**FORT SMITH**  
*Arkansas*

**NEWEST  
and  
FINEST  
HOTEL**

- AIR COOLED
- 200 ROOMS
- 200 BATHS
- FREE PARKING
- COFFEE SHOP

Air Conditioned

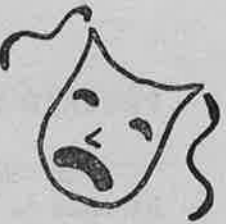
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up**

FRANK J. VOLKER  
MANAGER

*The* **WARD**  
HOTEL

The Ward Hotel is happy to be  
host to Fort Smith Little Theatre's  
first performance of

*Theatre-in-the-Round*



The  
Little Theatre of Fort Smith, Inc.

presents

**SOUTHERN  
EXPOSURE**

A COMEDY IN THREE ACTS

By  
OWEN CRUMP

Directed by  
FLORABEL K. PATTEE

NOVEMBER 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

8:15 P. M.

THE GOLD ROOM - WARD HOTEL

Fourth Season 1950-51



PROGRAM NOTES . . . .

With "Southern Exposure" your Fort Smith Little Theatre is proud to introduce to its patrons THEATRE-IN-THE-ROUND. This intimate type of production, staged right in the center of the audience, is zooming in popularity.

Though new to most Americans, arena presentation is actually the oldest form of drama. Like the amphitheatre of ancient Greece and the Elizabethan playhouse, the modern arena theatre uses little or no scenery. A blackout takes the place of a curtain for scene changes, and between acts a few stagehands put on a show of their own moving props and furniture. Since footlights would blind the audience on the opposite side, the stage is lighted from above. Actors enter and exit through the audience.

Today, theatre-in-the-round flourishes largely in tents and hotel ballrooms. But several groups which pioneered it (notably Margo Jones' Theatre '51, in Dallas) are well-established in critical and popular esteem.

\* \* \* \* \*

Tonight's play was first produced by Margo Jones in 1950. Its setting is Natchez, Queen City of the social and cultural life in the Old Southwest. Once the pride of a great cotton empire, Natchez was the center of romance and adventure during steamboat days.

Modern Natchez, which is the background of our play, numbers among its greatest assets the many fine mansions of Colonial and Ante-Bellum periods. During the month of March, thousands of visitors come to the city for the express purpose of taking the tours through the old homes. They celebrate with the descendants of the old families, as they don their ante-bellum costumes and live again in gracious reminiscence of the past.

The climax of the season in Natchez is the advent of The Pilgrimage.

" . . . We've got three industries in Natchez—  
Cotton, Oil, and the Pilgrimage . . ."

\* \* \* \* \*

So, tonight, we invite you to be both "Pilgrims"— and Pioneers. We are eager to learn your reaction to this, the final production of our 1950-51 season. You who are season-ticket holders (and, thereby, members of Little Theatre) are particularly urged to attend our Annual Meeting. You will be notified within the next month concerning time and place. Remember—this is YOUR Little Theatre. We'll be seeing you!

The Little Theatre of Fort Smith, Inc.

presents

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Directed by  
FLORABEL K. PATTEE

CAST  
(in order of appearance)

MISS PENELOPE MAYWEATHER, mistress of Mayweather Hall  
.....GLADYS MAI DEARE  
AUSTRALIA, a Negro servant.....REBA KASTEN  
MARY BELLE TUCKER, a tourist guide.....BESS HARRIS WIDDER  
AVERY RANDALL, a banker.....JOHN D. KING  
JONATHAN DOUGLAS  
(JOHN SALGUOD) a young man from New England.....DAVID SPEER  
CAROL RANDALL, Avery Randall's daughter  
.....MARTHA WOOD CONCANNON  
EMMELINE RANDALL, his wife.....ERNA KRONE  
BENJAMIN CARTER, editor of a Sunday magazine section.....JOE BISHOP  
"PILGRIMS" .....Larry Randolph,  
Trixie Marquis, Bernie Marquis, Penny Crockett, Ann Sims, Mary Lou Jones,  
Kathryn Gamble, Jerry Winner, Jesse Winner, Charles Dixon, Jerry Fuller,  
Tom Ross, Jerry Ross, John Holt, Evelyn Holt, Helen Maxwell, James Pattee,  
Joyce King, Bernie Marquis, Jr.

SCENE

The upstairs sitting room of Mayweather Hall, an historical, typical Southern townhouse in Natchez, Mississippi.  
Time: The present.

ACT ONE

Scene 1: Shortly after noon of an early spring day  
Scene 2: About nine o'clock the same evening

Fifteen Minute Intermission

ACT TWO

Scene 1: The next morning  
Scene 2: About nine o'clock the same evening

Ten Minute Intermission

ACT THREE

Scene 1: Eight o'clock the next morning

WHO'S A-ROUND . . . .

GLADYS MAI DEARE (Penelope Mayweather) reminisces about college performances in "Dear Brutus" and "The Rock." She was a member of Theta Alpha Chi honorary dramatic fraternity, and Theatre Workshop, at the University of Missouri. Locally she has directed church pageants and for two years taught public speaking at FSHS. Mrs. Deare is a member of the Board of Directors of your Little Theatre, and last trod the boards as Henry Aldrich's mother in "What A Life!"

REBA KASTEN (Australia) was hilarious on-stage in "Blithe Spirit" and "See How They Run," and last played the private secretary in "Goodbye, My Fancy". (Incidentally, hope you noticed how we beat the movies to "Goodbye, My Fancy" and "Kind Lady.") When Reba's not on-stage, she's often backstage, giving an equally efficient account of herself. And when we're not using her talents, she's off doing side-splitting monologues which are the star attraction on anybody's program.

BESS HARRIS WIDDER (Mary Belle Tucker) well understands the sentiment attached to a city's celebration of its past. She is a member of Arkansas Pioneers, and was Queen of the Fort Smith Centennial in 1918! During her thirty-year's residence on Long Island, N. Y., after her marriage, she was active in the Fortnightly Theatrical Group, playing in "The Women" and "Life With Mother," among others. We welcome her in her first appearance for Little Theatre.

JOHN D. KING (Avery Randall) notes that he first put in an appearance in Atoka, Okla. He was active in theatricals there, and later in Little Rock, where he attaches no pointed significance to the fact that his favorite role was in "The Devil's Disciple." For Fort Smith Little Theatre he has played a senator ("Two Blind Mice") and an Irish foreman ("Up In Central Park"). Now he's a southern gentleman—so it's appropriate enough that he'll soon be working for Dixie Cup!

DAVE SPEER (Jonathan Douglas) includes performances in "As You Like It," "The Wall," "Death Takes a Holiday," and "You Can't Take It With You" among his favorites during college days at Hendrix and the U. of A. For us he has appeared in "See How They Run" and his 'drunk' scene in "John Loves Mary" was a show-stopper. Dave is enthusiastic about theatre-in-the-round and hopes you will have as much fun watching as he has had in preparing his arena performance.

MARTHA WOOD CONCANNON (Carol Randall) is a sure bet for kudos in her first Little Theatre role. Well trained as a speech and drama major at Briarcliff Junior College in New York, she was there chosen to take the solo part in a choral-reading program for New York's Town Hall. A stint at Stanford University netted parts in "Lysistrata" and "Macbeth," and she directed plays for the Palo Alto (Calif.) Children's Theatre.

ERNA KRONE (Emmeline Randall) is another welcome newcomer to our ranks. We admire her forthright characterization—and her eloquence, particularly in view of the fact that she spoke no English during her early childhood! Mrs. Krone grew up in a Danish community in Iowa, and attended school in Des Moines, where she was active in the Des Moines Little Theatre.

JOE BISHOP (Benjamin Carter) recently moved to Fort Smith primarily because of his interest in theatre. He promises to be a valuable addition to our Little Theatre staff, and is serving as Technical Director for this production. His B.A. from the College of Wooster (Ohio) came along with activity in learning and practicing all the "theatre arts." This past summer he completed his work for a Master's Degree from Northwestern University's famed theatre plant. During the war he acted in and stage-managed a G.I. Road Show in Germany. Needless to say, Little Theatre hopes to make good use of his enthusiasm and his capabilities.